



Section 34

Open Space and Trails

Development & Management Plan

BLM Lease Process

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Section 1: Description

- The Town of Edgewood, incorporated in 1999 is located 20 miles east of Albuquerque, located off of Interstate-40.
- The parcel the Town wishes to lease from BLM and develop into a recreation site comprises of 248.72-acres situated two miles south of the current town business center.
- The parcel is easily accessed by paved Edgewood Road 7 along its' Western/Northwestern boundary.
- There are currently no existing or proposed public outdoor recreational facilities on the parcel.
- The parcel consists of small limestone outcrops 2-3 feet high that run along the contours of the Southern ridge. The majority of the parcel's soil is characterized by rock fragments and bedrock.
- Common understory species consist of Gamble's Oak, mountain mahogany, banana yucca, big sagebrush, long flowered Ipomopsis, prickly pear cactus, tansy mustard, woolly pliantain , and wormwort.
- A flat ridge covers most of the property and existing dirt roads in the Northern meadow are opportune for a parking area and trail heads.
- An existing road on the southern ridge leads to the eastern boundary passing a large and small meadow with excellent view sheds of the surrounding rolling hills and terrain. These areas are prime for picnicking facilities.
- The meadows are home to a variety of prairie grass and wildflowers and recent tree-thinning by BLM has already encouraged new growth in the surrounding forested areas. Pinion and Juniper cover the parcel and provide homes for a variety of birds, wildlife, and native vegetation.
- The second phase of tree thinning for fire management by BLM is scheduled to begin Winter 2007. The site provides excellent opportunities for hiking, biking, horse-back riding, environmental education & projects, outdoor recreation programming, and potential eco-tourism. Unfortunately the site is currently being used heavily for illegal dumping, squatting and ATV's/dirt bike activity.

Section II : Statement of Need

- Currently, outdoor recreational opportunities in the Town for the greater Edgewood area which consists of up to 20,000 people are limited to a 6-mile highway right of way primitive trail system.
- Demands for recreational opportunities and preservation of the area's rural beauty and character continues to grow as Edgewood becomes one of the fastest growing town's in Central New Mexico.
- Other than the trail system, at this time, the opportunity to recreate outdoors in the natural environment do not exist. Edgewood residents either head to Albuquerque or the Cibola National Forest located 20 miles to the Northwest for recreational activities.
- The parcel is conveniently situated to the South of the Old Hwy 66 trail and could potentially tie into the existing trail system. This trail system will ultimately tie into a regional trail from Edgewood to Santa Fe.
- As the parcel is owned by the Taos BLM field office, distance from the parcel has made management difficult for authorities. As a result, a serious public health and litter problem have manifested. The land is increasingly being used for illegal ATV and dirt bike use having a detrimental high impact on the natural ecosystem. Illegal dumping and squatting propose fire, health and safety hazards.
- The Town of Edgewood wishes to lease the property with the option to buy at the end of the five year period in hopes of meeting an urgent demand for recreational and conservation purposes and eliminating illegal and unsafe use of the parcel.

Section III: Location

Legal Description:

1. Township 10N 7E, Range 9N 10E, Section 34, lot 1-4 South
2. Located 2 miles South of the Edgewood Road 7 and Hwy 333 (Old Route 66) Intersection
3. Situated on the NE corner of Windmill Road and Edgewood Road 7 intersection
4. The Town of Edgewood is located 20 miles East of Albuquerque conveniently located off Interstate-40
5. Located 120 miles from the Taos BLM Field Office and isolated from most of the land the Taos Field Office manages.

From Albuquerque, The East Mountains are the fastest growing area in central New Mexico. With more residents, there is more demand for recreational opportunities and more urgency for acquiring and preserving open space lands. Development of Section 34 will help alleviate some of this demand and create a starting point for future acquisition initiatives and development of similar sites.



Section IV:

Description of Proposed Improvements

Access

1. NW corner of Edgewood 7, use of 700 linear feet with no private holdings to accommodate the construction of a "T" intersection creating a turn lane into the property's one way in and out loop drive and parking area.
2. Year round access to Western section and entrance from paved Edgewood Road 7, which the town maintains which connects to the current town center 2 miles north of the parcel.

Recreation

•Multi-use Trail system

Hiking, dog-walking

biking

Equestrian

educational/interpretive loop, ADA compliant

•Horse Shoes

•Small Off-Leash Dog area with benches

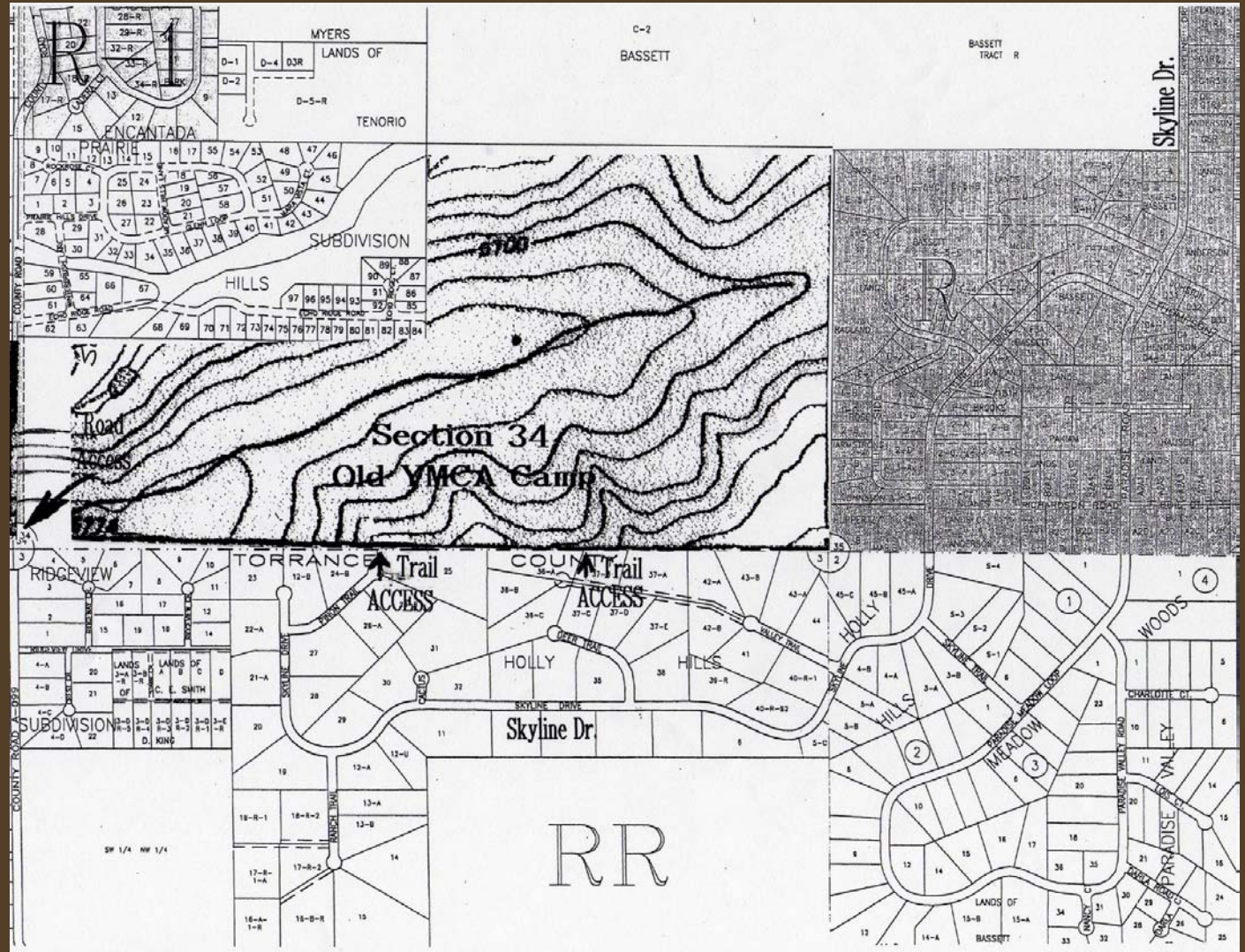
Facilities

1. Picnic shelters
2. Equestrian area (picnic area, hitching posts, possible corral)
3. Wildlife, habitat interpretive gazebo station
4. Primitive Parking with bollards (one way in, one way out road)
5. Trail Heads
6. Boundary Fencing/gate
7. Off leash dog area with benches, info. Board, and clean-up bag dispenser
8. Horse shoe pit at picnic are in East Meadow

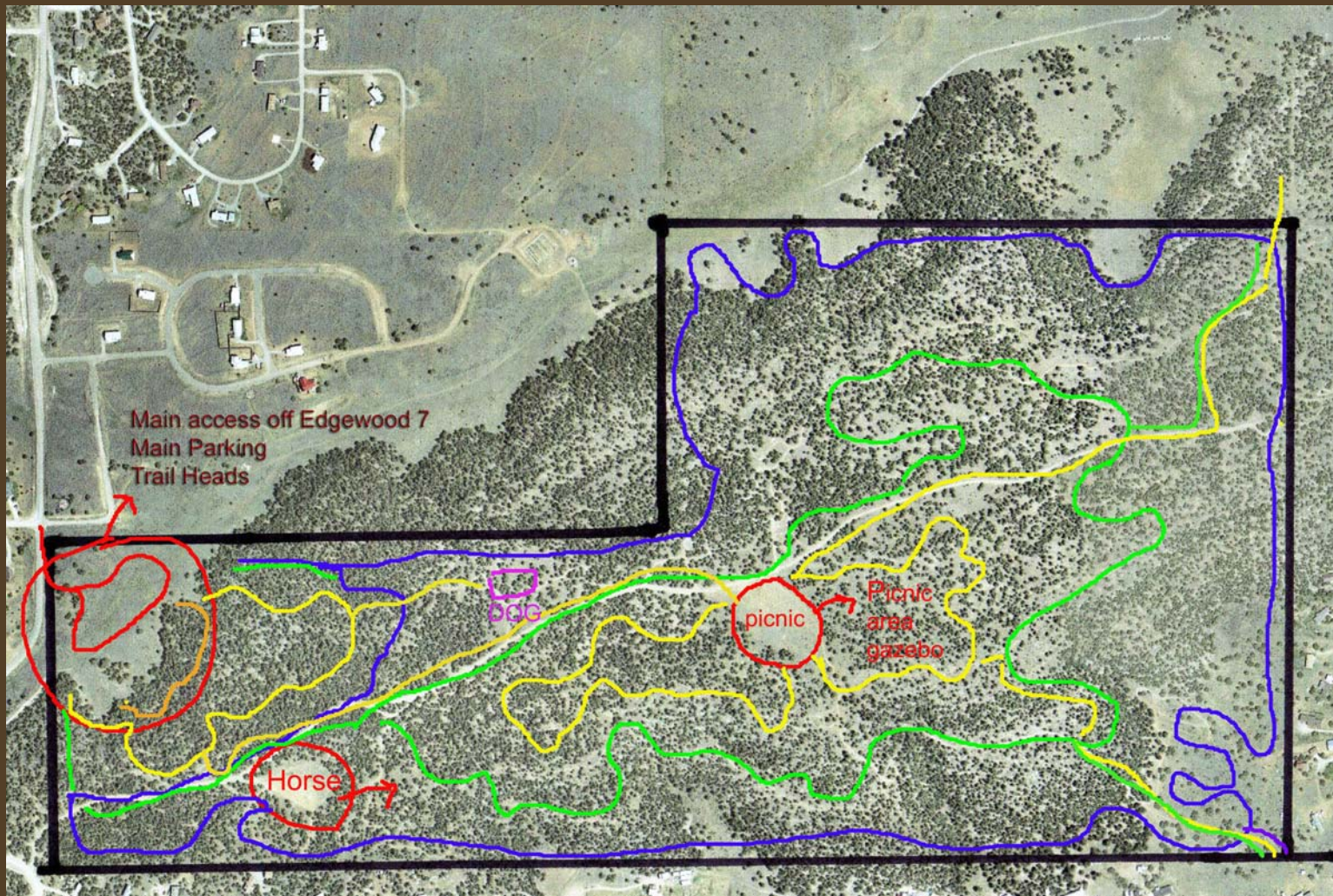
Potential Sources of Funding & Volunteerism

- Local Government Road Fund
- Youth Conservation Corp. Grant
- New Mexico Recreational Trails Program funding
- The Trust for Public Lands
- Santa Fe County Open Space and Trails (COLTPAC)
- International Mountain Biking Association
- Volunteers for the Outdoors
- High Desert Riders Equestrian Club
- Back Country Horsemen
- Friends of the Sandia Mountains
- Animal agency funding for materials for dog park

- **Section
Arial
View of
Section
34**



Proposed Development of Parcel



LEGEND

— Facilities

— Equine Trail

— Bicycle Trail

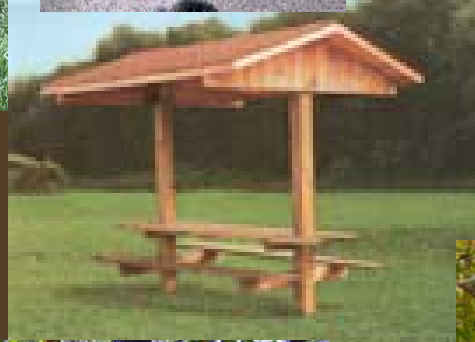
— Foot Trail

— ADA Compliant

— Dog Park



Facility Illustrations



- Horse Corral and Hitching Posts
- All in One Picnic table and shelter
- Off leash Dog park
- Section's interpretive wildlife/habitat gazebo
- Parking Bollards
- Trail Head signage



Section VI: Development Time Table and Projected Costs

Development Costs for Phase I

- 1. Contract Dennis Engineering to survey entire parcel, Design, and create a grading & drainage plan For Phase I entrance and parking area on the North West side of the property. \$5,870
- 2. Cost for Dennis Engineering to design a new Entrance to the parcel with turn lane off Edgewood 7 and gravel (4-inch depth) road down the hill into a ¾ mile loop Around the drainage complete pull-out for car and truck/horse trailer parking. \$8,375
- 3. Call for 3 Quotes for lane widening, striping and signage
- 4. Locate funding, Apply for YCC grant Install Wildlife friendly Boundary Fencing and Western Gate, perimeter signage, Install bollards at foot path entrances at various property owner approved sites around perimeter (3,500)
- 5. Remove trash and dumping from site
- 6. Have BLM remove slash piles from Phase II thinning

Total : \$ 14,245

Section VI: Development Time Table and Costs

Development Costs for Phase 2:

- | | | |
|----------------------|---|-------------------------|
| 1. | Work with Atilla Bality, Outdoor Recreation Planner, National Parks Service to begin trail planning and design. | |
| 2. | Work with Jessica Terrell with the State Recreational Trails Program to acquire funding for the creation of trail system and trail facilities | |
| 4. | Have Town Road Crew build/gravel up internal road and pull out parking areas according to drainage plan | \$16,000 |
| 5. | Grant contract, build turn land on Edgewood 7 into Sec. 34 with signage, and striping using Local Government Road Funds | \$127,00 |
| 6. | Purchase & Install bollards to prevent vehicles from driving outside the designated parking area, establish parking areas (bollards could be boulders). | \$2,000 |
| <u>TOTAL:</u> | | <u>\$145,000</u> |

Section VI: Development Time Table and Costs

Development Costs for Phase 3

- | | | |
|----|--|-----------|
| 1. | Close off non-trail areas for Seed of indigenous species of grasses and wildflower seeds as needed | \$150 |
| 2. | Work on trail construction and implementing trail signage | \$2000 |
| 3. | Work with Volunteer organizations and funding agencies to build eastern meadow picnic table/shelter combo
Consists of 2 table/shelter combos with connective walking trail | \$6,000 |
| 4. | Work with Equine groups to build corral, hitching posts and 1 picnic table/shelter combo in small western meadow | \$ 4,000 |
| 5. | Work with Youth Conservation Corp, Volunteers for the Outdoors, local volunteer organizations to create ADA crusher fine walkway/loop with bench from parking area and one picnic/shelter facility | (\$5,500) |
| 6. | Research, locate and apply for funding for Interpretive Gazebo | |

TOTAL **\$17, 650**

Section VI: Development Time Table and Costs

Development Costs for Phase 4

1.	Work with grant monies and volunteers to build wildlife interpretive gazebo and interpretive trail/signs	\$7,000
2.	Host a summer YCC program that focuses on forest health restoration.	
3.	Finish any trail work and signage, benches	\$1,500
		<u>TOTAL: \$ 8,500</u>

Section VI: Development Time Table and Costs

- **Development Costs for Phase 5**

1. Work with Edgewood Animal Control Officer on design
Funding and implementation of Off-Leash Dog Park with
perimeter fencing, benches, notice board, poop bag dispenser
and trash cans. \$5,500
2. Create foot path trail leading from main parking area to
Off leash dog area with signage \$200
3. Open the completed facility , Host grand opening

Recurring Costs

Park Technician

Trash Removal

Maintenance of Facilities and roads

Section VII: Management Plan

Parcel Management Plan

- Implemented Upon completion of development plan
- All changes or modifications to the recreation site plan will be approved by the BLM Taos Field Office before implementation

Parcel Use Rules and Regulations

- No overnight camping
- Dirt Bike and ATV use is prohibited
- The entrance gate will be locked and opened mornings and evenings according to posted schedule
- Motorized vehicles on main gravel road and parking areas only
- The Town will contract for regular trash pick-up
- Equestrians must remove animal manure from equine picnic site and off trails
- Dog Park users will be required to remove dog feces from park area with bags and receptacles provided
- Dog Walkers must remove fecal matter from trails and picnic areas for public health and safety
- No hunting or discharge of firearms

Section VII: Management Plan, continued...

Parcel Management

- *Fence*
 - Delineate the parcel perimeter and discourage trespassing, thereby maintaining privacy and security of open space and private property
 - Aesthetically match the character of the landscape
 - Facilitate easy crossing by wildlife with minimal risk of entrapment
- *Vegetation*
 - Identify and provide areas for wildlife use as cover and forage
 - Monitor and control noxious and invasive species of weeds
 - Re-seed meadows with native wildflower and grasses
 - Monitor and manage on a seasonal time frame working with The Edgewood Soil and Water Conservation District
- *Forest Health*
 - Ensure long term health, function and aesthetic value of these habitats
 - Work with youth organizations and grants to provide educational workshops on healthy forest initiatives
- *Conservation*
 - Work closely with local and outside conservation organizations to implement education, forest health, and vegetation goals.
- *Human Activity*
 - Minimize evidence of human use and impacts through site design, use regulations, and visitor education
 - Coordinate with local landowners to minimize occurrence of trespass and related impacts on private lands
 - Western Entrance gate will be locked and unlocked daily by Park Technician to deter illegal activities
- *Trails*
 - *Work with local and outside volunteer organizations to help maintain and clean trails through adopt a trail program*
 - Use of education component for creation and maintenance of interpretive gazebo and trail
- *Education*
 - Increase public knowledge and appreciation of existing natural systems
 - Work closely with local schools, conservation organizations, and outside agencies to develop open space related educational materials and firsthand learning experiences.
- *Fees*
 - Currently there will be no usage fees, However the Town Council reserves the right to instill a usage fee should they deem necessary